

HOUSE RESOLUTION 200

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Johnny MacRae.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Johnny MacRae, an award-winning country music songwriter, publisher, and producer and a legendary fixture of Nashville's Music Row; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacRae came to Nashville in 1963 in pursuit of his dream of working in the country music industry. He worked for a number of successful publishing companies, including Screen Gems, Mimosa Music, Combine Music, Warner-Chappell, and BMG Music; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents and passions, Johnny MacRae was well-known in Nashville as a gifted songwriter. His songs were recorded by a number of giants in the industry, including Ray Charles, Bobby Vinton, B.J. Thomas, Conway Twitty, George Jones, Bill Anderson, Brenda Lee, Randy Travis, Loretta Lynn, George Strait, Reba McEntire, The Oak Ridge Boys, Mel McDaniel, Ricky Van Shelton, the Dixie Chicks, John Conlee, Mel Tillis, Vern Gosdin, and Highway 101, among many others; and

WHEREAS, an award-winning, Grammy-nominated songwriter, Mr. MacRae wrote or co-wrote songs that became number one and top ten hits, and "(I'd be better off in a) Pine Box," a song he co-wrote, was included on the elite list "CMT's 100 Greatest Songs of County Music"; and

WHEREAS, before moving to Nashville, Johnny MacRae served with honor and valor as a member of the United States Navy. During his fifteen-year naval career, during which he spent most of his enlistment in the South Pacific, Mr. MacRae was intimately involved with

music, and he and his band, the Silver Bullets, became very popular and played in every port-of-call to throngs of fans; and

WHEREAS, following his honorable discharge from the Navy, Mr. MacRae joined the West Coast music scene. His abilities as a songwriter and novelty recording artist flourished, and he was an integral part of the huge hit "Monster Mash," on which he sang back-up vocals and created most of the sound effects; and

WHEREAS, as a man who lived life to the fullest, Johnny MacRae was known for his quick wit, his infectious laugh, the mischievous gleam in his eye, and his memorable pranks; and he will be fondly remembered for the monthly luncheons he hosted and his infamous Bloody Marys; and

WHEREAS, he was most appreciative of the love and support he shared with his beloved wife, Mary, and often said that the last three decades of his life were his happiest years because of the time they spent together on their farm in Ashland City, where they raised animals, maintained stocked ponds, and worked in the vineyard, which produced Mr. MacRae's "nectar of the gods" wine; and

WHEREAS, Johnny and Mary MacRae generously opened part of the their farm, free of charge, to families, churches, youth groups, at-risk inner-city youth, or anyone wishing to spend a day in the quiet, contemplative countryside; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2014, a Celebration of Life event will be held on the farm he so loved and will include a gathering of people who remember him for the man he was; and

WHEREAS, Johnny MacRae made an indelible impact on the country music industry and was a talented, loving man, one who never met a stranger and always sought to help others, and it is wholly fitting that this body should pause to remember his career and his bountiful life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we remember the life and contributions of Johnny MacRae, reflecting fondly upon his success in and contributions to

the music industry and applauding his stalwart commitment to living life his way, with courage, conviction, and compassion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.